



Parks and Green Spaces Levy Oversight Committee

March 18, 2013

Minutes

Committee Attendance: Bruce Bentley, Dave Boyd, Bill Brosseau, Dennis Canty, Donna Hartmann-Miller, Stephanie Johnson-Toliver, Shanon Kearney, Ross Maddalena, Michael Maddux, Joyce Pisnanont, Dorsol Plants, Beth Purcell, Pete Spalding, Alec Stephens

Staff Attending: Susan Golub, Chip Nevins, Terry Roche, Michael Shiosaki

Committee Business: The minutes from the February 25 meeting were approved.

Director's Report: Michael Shiosaki provided the Committee with an update on Levy projects:

- **Puget Ridge Edible Park:** A deal was signed to purchase this property and it is expected to close soon. This is a first round of the Opportunity Fund project with high community support that for a long time looked like we could not reach agreement with the property owner. Thank you to Lise Ward, Parks staff for her work on this project.
- **Bell Street Park:** Final approval from the Seattle Department of Transportation was recently received, so the Notice to Proceed with construction will be issued this week, with construction to start soon after.

Public Comment: Sharon Knoll – There will be a party at Magnolia Manor to celebrate the new opening of the p-patch which has 73 plots.

Opportunity Fund Discussion

Committee Chair Pete Spalding informed the Committee that there would be a vote on preliminary recommendations at this meeting. The Committee reviewed projects by sector of the City. The preliminary recommendations voted on at the conclusion of the meeting are attached to these minutes as Attachment A.

Dennis Canty commented that as the Committee considers the individual projects, they need to also be conscious that the whole package makes sense. The Committee applies judgment that may not exactly reflect the criteria, but the judgment is based on touring the sites, responses to questions and citizen comments.

Mr. Stephens noted that the Levy Ordinance takes precedence over the criteria developed by the Committee. Ms. Pisnanont remarked that geographic equity needs to be considered as they work through the sectors.

The Committee began reviewing sectors to initially determine which projects had unanimous support.

Northeast

- Sacajawea Playground – unanimous support for \$292,000;
- Magnuson Park Kitchen – access and revenue are limited; not recommended for funding;
- Yesler Swamp – no consensus.

Northwest

- Baker Park Expansion – unanimous support for \$500,000
Mr. Stephens asked why a higher amount than the original is proposed; Mr. Nishi responded that there will be higher than anticipated demolition costs; plus the property is currently listed for sale at a higher amount than expected.
- Threading the Needle – unanimous support for \$750,000

Southeast

- Lewis Park Improvements – unanimous support for \$700,000
- Othello Park – unanimous support for \$547,000

Southwest

- South Park Plaza – unanimous support for \$669,000
To be supplemented with Conservation Futures Tax funds for the adjoining property
- Erskine Way – concern that the house on the property could be a landmark; no consensus to fund;
- 48th & Charlestown – no consensus
Mr. Boyd asked why the recommendation is for a property pretty far down on the staff recommended list. Mr. Nevins responded that the project did not get points for serving an area with an open space gap, where it probably should have because Schmitz Park does not have usable open space. If it gets gap points it moves higher on the list.

Central East

- Pratt Fine Arts Center – not recommended for funding

Central West

- Seattle Aquarium – not recommended for funding

Northeast

- Lake City Skatespot – unanimous support for \$750,000

Support expressed for the project from Mr. Cauty and Mr. Plants; Ms. Hartmann-Miller suggested combining this project with the Hubbard Homestead Park project. Mr. Nishi responded that because site design at Lake City requires relocation of the basketball court, the entire \$750,000 would be needed to develop Lake City. Ms. Purcell noted that the \$750,000 recommended is less than the requested \$822,000, so should not be further reduced; she supports the project. Mr. Boyd, Mr. Maddux, Mr. Stephens and Mr. Maddalena also expressed support.

Southwest

Camp Long: The Committee returned to the Southwest sector to discuss what additional project should be funded. Mr. Spalding spoke in favor of Camp Long, noting it would winterize the cabins for year-round use. The new ropes course at Camp Long is very popular and highly used with at-risk youth who are trained at instructors on the course.

Mr. Bentley agrees, stating that Camp Long is his top pick for Southwest. Re-doing the kitchen in the main lodge was a good decision and weatherizing the cabins would be great for at-risk youth and would be a very important addition to Camp Long.

Mr. Stephens stated the cabin project is different from buildings like Pratt because the cabins are an element of the park, part of the character of Camp Long. Camp Long serves kids across the City; it is more than a neighborhood park. Also supporting Camp Long, Ms. Johnson-Toliver likes the fact that it benefits youth city-wide and that the environmental education is supported by the environmental learning center on site – build on what we have. Mr. Plants stated the criteria support the major maintenance aspect of Camp Long more than an acquisition such as 48th and Charlestown.

South Park Plaza: Mr. Canty said the second phase of the South Park Plaza would be his first choice; however, it was noted that there has not been an application for plaza development.

48th & Charlestown: Mr. Maddalena expressed concerns for the Camp Long project, noting it is a capital project, similar to Pratt Fine Arts. He prefers the 48th & Charlestown project because it fills an open space gap and has strong community support. Ms. Hartmann-Miller concurred with Mr. Maddalena, noting 48th & Charlestown provides an opportunity to serve the community, but once the property sells, the opportunity is gone.

Southwest

- Camp Long Cabins – consensus to recommend funding at \$750,000

Central East

Broadway Super Block: The Committee returned to a discussion of the Central East sector, first discussing the Garfield Super Block project. Mr. Nishi stated staff have walked the site with the proponents and saw that changes had been made since the 2005 study to address the safety concerns. There is some lighting at the pool and the field and some pedestrian lighting that is programmed with field use. The programming could be changed on the pedestrian lights to provide more coverage. And there are still dark areas, especially on the south boundary near the performing arts center. However, the proposal that was submitted requested improvements to the north-south access; the safety issues weren't in the proposal.

Mr. Stephens noted that the proposal asked for items that had already been improved and suggested perhaps having the proponents come back if there is a future Opportunity Fund round. Ms. Purcell concurred, noting that the lighting issues weren't in the project proposal. However, Mr. Canty stated if there are worthy elements that need funding, even if they aren't in the proposal, they should be funded.

Broadway Hill Park: Ms. Hartmann-Miller spoke in favor of funding the Broadway Hill Park, noting it was purchased with Parks and Green Space Levy Funds, but there was no Levy funding for park development. Mr. Maddux also supports Broadway Hill, stating it is an important asset for a very dense neighborhood.

Pratt Fine Arts Center: Ms. Purcell noted that Pratt, while a City Parks facility, does not get any major maintenance funding. She believes the facility should be included in Parks asset management plan and be

ranked for major maintenance funds along with other Park facilities. Mr. Stephens stated he is fine with including major maintenance projects in the Opportunity Fund; the project shouldn't be penalized because it is major maintenance. The issue is more one of general public access, the same as with the Seattle Aquarium.

Washington Park Playground: Ms. Purcell noted the Washington Park Playground project has lots of community support. The new field is heavily used and the area really needs a new playground. Mr. Brosseau expressed some concern about moving a project up to funding when it originally scored so low.

Central East

- Broadway Hill Park – consensus to recommend funding at \$750,000
- Washington Park Playground – consensus to recommend funding at \$365,000

Central West

The Committee then returned to the Northwest sector to discuss what projects should be funded in addition to the Northwest Native Canoe Center.

Seattle Aquarium: Mr. Plants noted the environmental, research and education opportunities at the Aquarium and that it is located in a very high density area and is a regional attraction. There are lots of volunteers and community activity. He does have concerns regarding the high entrance fee at the Aquarium.

Mr. Stephens spoke of the law of unintended consequences – this is not the type of project that the Levy Ordinance intended with the Opportunity Fund, and stated he has trouble giving funds to a quasi governmental entity versus the little guy. The Aquarium has a sophisticated fundraising system and can raise money more easily than even Pratt or smaller project. Mr. Maddux stated he believes the Opportunity Fund is for neighborhood parks, not for paid facilities. Mr. Maddalena and Ms. Hartmann-Miller concurred.

Lower Kinnear Trail: Mr. Maddalena stated this is a great project that links Lower Kinnear and Myrtle Edwards Park and has broad community support. Mr. Shiosaki noted that Parks needs to conduct additional geo-technical analysis regarding the entire slope above the proposed trail and are trying to identify funding for the additional work. Mr. Purcell said money should not go towards a project when it is unclear what the project will be and whether it is technically feasible.

Magnolia Manor Park: Mr. Boyd spoke in favor of adding Magnolia Manor Park to the funding list. Other members concurred, noting the strong community interest in the project.

Central West

- Magnolia Manor Park – consensus to recommend funding at \$402,400

Attachment A

Parks and Green Spaces Levy Oversight Committee

Preliminary Opportunity Fund Recommendations – March 18, 2013

Sector	Project Name	Revised Staff Recommendation	Fund Request	3/18/2013
CE	Pratt Fine Arts Center Building Stabilization	750,000	750,000	
CE	Garfield Campus Superblock Continuation Renovation Project	-	750,000	
CE	Melrose Promenade	-	750,000	
CE	Improve ADA access in Japanese Garden	-	200,000	
CE	Broadway Hill Park	-	750,000	750,000
CE	Activating Judkins Park	-	750,000	
CE	Lower Judkins Park Lighting Project	-	209,000	
CE	Installing Playground at Washington Park Playfield	-	365,000	365,000
CE Total		750,000	4,524,000	1,115,000
CW	Harbor Seal Capital Project	600,000	700,000	
CW	Northwest Native Canoe Center	750,000	750,000	750,000
CW	Lower Kinnear Park North Trail		659,770	
CW	Completing Magnolia Manor Park		402,500	402,500
CW	I-5 Colonnade Improvements and Expansion		700,000	
CW	Eastlake Woods Hill Climb and P-Patch		367,500	
CW	Fairview Ridge Trails and Steps		300,000	
CW Total		1,350,000	3,879,770	1,152,500
NE	Community Kitchen at Magnuson Park	451,000	450,703	
NE	Sacajawea Playground Renovation	292,000	270,000	292,000
NE	Inverness Ravine Park Trail	-		

			301,044	
NE	Yesler Swamp Trail	550,000	531,066	
NE	Lake City skatespot	-	750,000	750,000
NE	Hubbard Homestead Fitness and Playground Equipment	-	500,000	
NE	A Walkable Maple Leaf Park	-	702,106	
	NE Total	1,293,000	3,504,919	1,042,000
NW	Evanston P-Patch GROWS!	-	585,700	
NW	Baker Park Expansion	500,000	348,000	500,000
NW	Threading the Needle Park (24th St)	750,000	747,477	750,000
NW	The Seattle Sensory Garden	-	750,000	
NW	Greenwood Interurban Trail Connection	-	741,522	
NW	Evanston P-Patch Revitalization	-	296,990	
NW	14th Ave Street-End Park	-	204,500	
NW	NW 65th Street Park	-	1,340,300	
NW	Community Connectivity and Sunny Meadow	-	320,400	
NW	Greenwood Bog Pocket Park	-	300,000	
	NW Total	1,250,000	5,634,889	1,250,000
SE	Lewis Park Natural Area Improvements	700,000	747,835	700,000
SE	Othello Park Improvements Project	547,000	546,312	547,000
SE	Jefferson Park Multi-Use Trail	-	739,444	
SE	Lewis Park Natural Area	-	220,000	
SE	Waters & 57th Greenspace	-	-	
SE	Seattle Children's Safety Garden	-	750,000	
SE	Where's the beach?	-	200,000	
SE	Jefferson Park Gatehouse Environmental Learning	-		

	Center		450,000	
	SE Total	1,247,000	3,653,591	1,247,000
SW	South Park Plaza	669,000	669,000	669,000
SW	Genesee Hill Park	-	750,000	
SW	Lafayette Elementary Playground - Phase 3	-	600,000	
SW	Erskine Way Park	600,000	1,079,000	
SW	Camp Long Infrastructure Improvement Winterization Project	-	750,000	750,000
SW	Highland Park Playground Improvements	-	518,787	
SW	48th Ave. SW & SW Charlestown	-	800,000	
SW	Greg Davis covered stage/outdoor classroom		208,177	
	SW Total	1,269,000	5,374,964	1,419,000
	Grand Total	7,159,000	26,572,133	7,225,500